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Sixty-seventh year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Letter dated 20 July 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In addition to my previous letters dated 25 April and 10 May 2012 (A/66/783-S/2012/271 and A/66/798-S/2012/313), I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 18 July 2012 regarding the illegal "presidential elections" conducted on 19 July 2012 in the occupied Daghlyq Garabagh (Nagorno-Karabakh) region of the Republic of Azerbaijan (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35, 39, 67 and 83, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 20 July 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

According to the reports circulated by the mass media outlets of the Republic of Armenia, so-called "presidential elections" are being arranged to take place in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 19 July 2012.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan reiterates in this regard that the Republic of Armenia, having occupied the Azerbaijani territories and conducted ethnic cleansing against the local Azerbaijani population, has established illegal authorities in the occupied territories. The so-called "elections" are organized in order to camouflage the policy of Armenia aimed at annexation of the occupied territories and to promote the results of the continued occupation of the Azerbaijani territories.

Such action, in the absence of the original Azerbaijani population of the Nagorno-Karabakh region and without the necessary authorization of respective structures of the Republic of Azerbaijan, gravely violates the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the norms and principles of international law, and, therefore, shall have no legal effect whatsoever.

Holding legitimate elections will be possible after the withdrawal of the Armenian occupying forces, normalization of life in the region, return of the expelled Azerbaijani population and creation of the necessary conditions for restoration of the dialogue and cooperation between the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The Republic of Azerbaijan calls upon the Armenian side, instead of its destructive illegal steps which do not have any prospects, to withdraw its armed forces from the Azerbaijani territories, thus opening prospects for sustainable peace, security and development of the entire region.

Baku, 18 July 2012